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ACTION, INM-07

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00 H-01
IO-19 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 L-03 AMAD-01
CTME-00 TRSE-00 PA-02 OMB-01 INRE-00 JUSE-00 DEAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0028
INFO USIA WASHDC 7127
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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
DIA WASHDC
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN//LAI//
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN//J2/INTAFF/SCJ2-PLOPS//
24COMPW HOWARD AFB PN//DOI//

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

☒ Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify

Date 2/27/02 Exemption _____

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USIA FOR AR; P/G
ALSO FOR INR/B
DIA FOR IR BRANCH; USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: BL, US, KAMR, PINR, SNAR
SUBJECT: SON OF ROBERTO SUAREZ ACCUSES CIA, DEA OF
DRUG TRAFFICKING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CONTRAS

SUMMARY

1. BOLIVIAN DRUG TRAFFICKER ROBERTO ((SUAREZ)) LEVY,
SON OF IMPRISONED COCAINE "KING" ROBERTO ((SUAREZ))
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GOMEZ, HAS ACCUSED PUBLICLY THE CIA AND DEA OF DRUG
TRAFFICKING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CONTRAS AND
COMPLICITY IN THE DEATH OF A BOLIVIAN SCIENTIST IN
THE HUANCHACA INCIDENT IN 1986. LA PAZ LEFTIST DAILY
"HOY" GAVE THE STORY BANNER HEADLINES SEPTEMBER 29,
WHILE OTHER LA PAZ AND INTERIOR PAPERS PLAYED THE
STORY ON INNER PAGES. THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
ALREADY SENT SUBSECRETARY FOR SOCIAL DEFENSE JORGE
ALDERETE AND SELECTED BOLIVIAN JOURNALISTS TO
HUANCHACA TO TRY TO PUT THIS RIDICULOUS STORY TO
REST. END SUMMARY

A SWORN STATEMENT

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2. ROBERTO ((SUAREZ)) LEVY, SON OF IMPRISONED BOLIVIAN COCAINE TRAFFICKER ROBERTO ((SUAREZ)) GOMEZ, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 28, 1988 IN SANTA CRUZ TO PUBLICIZE HIS SWORN STATEMENT ACCUSING THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF COMPLICITY IN DRUG TRAFFICKING. SUAREZ LEVY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY JAIME ((PAREDES)) SEMPERTEGUI, A RETIRED BOLIVIAN NAVAL CAPTAIN WHO WAS FORCED TO LEAVE THE SERVICE IN LATE 1986 AFTER ACCUSING HIS SUPERIORS OF CORRUPTION AND DRUG TRAFFICKING. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT, AS PUBLISHED IN LA PAZ DAILY "HOY" (LEFTIST) ON SEPTEMBER 29, FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

"THIS SWORN DECLARATION, DATED TUESDAY THE 27TH OF THE PRESENT MONTH (SEPTEMBER) IS DIRECTED TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AUTHORITIES AND TRIBUNALS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA.

"MR. PUBLIC NOTARY, DR. JORGE ((URENDA)) PEINADO, AS A BOLIVIAN CITIZEN I COME BEFORE YOU, REQUIRING YOUR PRESENCE AS PUBLIC NOTARY IN SWEARING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"THE MOTIVE FOR MY SWORN DECLARATION IS TO USE ALL MY KNOWLEDGE TO CLARIFY THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP OF NORTH AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS TO HUANCHACA.

(NOTE: IN 1986 LARGE AMOUNTS OF PRECURSOR CHEMICALS WERE FOUND IN A WAREHOUSE IN THE HUANCHACA REGION; A FAMOUS BOLIVIAN SCIENTIST, HIS GUIDE AND PILOT WERE MURDERED WHEN THEY INADVERTENTLY CAME ACROSS THE SITE.)

"SO THAT THE PUBLIC KNOWS, AFTER THE DEATH OF SCIENTIST NOEL ((KEMPFF)) MERCADO, I RECEIVED INSISTENT CALLS FROM LA PAZ FROM MR. ENRIQUE CRESPO, THE CURRENT BOLIVIAN CONSUL IN NATIONALIST CHINA AND EX-MINISTER OF THE GARCIA MEZA REGIME, ASKING TO MEET IN THAT CITY. THESE MEETINGS TOOK PLACE VARIOUS TIMES BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY 1987 IN SANTA CRUZ, ALONG WITH MR. LUIS FERNANDO ((PEROU)), BOTH OF WHOM BELONG TO THE CIA IN BOLIVIA.

"THE CONCRETE PROPOSAL THAT THEY MADE TO ME IN THE NAME OF THE CIA WAS TO VISIT MY FATHER TO NEGOTIATE WITH HIM BECAUSE OF THEIR HIGH REGARD FOR HIS INTEGRITY AND ABILITY TO HELP THEM SOLVE THEIR PROBLEM WHICH AROSE BECAUSE OF THE HUANCHACA "ACCIDENT."

"THE PROBLEM WAS THE LACK OF A DRUG FLOW DUE TO

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THE DISCOVERY AND DISMANTLING OF ONE OF THEIR
DEA-PROTECTED FACTORIES. IN THE MEETING AT OUR
"QUEMALIA" FARM, THEY PROPOSED TO MY FATHER, IN THE
NAME OF COL. MURRAY--A HIGH LEVEL MEMBER OF THE
CIA--THAT WE CONTACT AN AMERICAN MAFIA FAMILY TO
OFFER THEM PROTECTION IN RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING
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DRUGS IN THE UNITED STATES.

"MY FATHER'S RESPONSE WAS THAT IT WOULD INTEREST US GREATLY TO REFORMULATE THE TREATMENT OF SUCH A DELICATE AFFAIR, IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE POSITION OF THE CIA AND TO SUBSTANTIATE THE LEVEL OF CORRUPTION IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION.

"MISTERS CRESPO AND PEROU REPORTED PERIODICALLY FROM LA PAZ REGARDING THE TOUR WHICH THE LEADERS OF THE NICARAGUAN CONTRAS, CALERO AND CHAMORRO, WERE MAKING IN VARIOUS SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING OURS. THE ACTION TO BE DEVELOPED IN OUR COUNTRY WAS TO COORDINATE WITH THE HIGH MILITARY COMMAND PERMISSION FOR THE PURCHASE OF YUGOSLAVIAN ARMS TO BE BOUGHT WITH FUNDS OBTAINED WITH THE AID OF THE CIA, IN ORDER TO BEGIN DRUG-TRAFFICKING AGAIN.

"WHEN MR. CRESPO TRAVELLED TO WITHDRAW THE FIRST TEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM CHASE MANHATTAN BANK OF PANAMA, THE MEETING AND TRANSACTION DID NOT OCCUR. FOR THIS TRANSACTION, HE HAD TO SPEAK WITH GENERAL MANUEL ANTONIO ((NORIEGA)) WHO HAD DECIDED TWO WEEKS BEFORE--THOUGH NOT PUBLICLY--TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT DELVALLE AND SEND THE CIA HOME. IN RESPONSE, GENERAL NORIEGA EXPELLED ENRIQUE CRESPO AND DISMISSED FROM OFFICE THE AMBASSADOR IN LA PAZ NOMINATED BY PRESIDENT DELVALLE.

"NOW, MR. CRESPO IS CONSUL IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

"I CHALLENGE MR. MARCELO SOMERSTEIN, OWNER OF THE
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"MOIRA" SAWMILL NEAR HUANCHACA I (ROMAN NUMERAL ONE) TO REFORMULATE HIS TESTIMONY ON THE TRUE EVENTS OF HUANCHACA."

SIGNED R. SUAREZ LEY, C.I. NO. 776843 CBBA (CARNET NUMBER 776843 ISSUED IN COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA), EQUIPETROL 9 OESTE NO. 6 PILOTO CIVIL.

END TEXT.

COMMENT

3. SUAREZ LEVY, PAREDES AND PEROU ARE ALL CONSIDERED UNRELIABLE AND UNSTABLE. NEVERTHELESS, THEIR FANTASTIC TALE HAS BEEN WIDELY PLAYED (AND PROBABLY

BELIEVED BY MANY BOLIVIANS). THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THESE FALSE REPORTS WILL TARNISH ITS IMAGE UNLESS SQUELCHED PROMPTLY, PARTICULARLY KEMPF'S SON'S CLAIM OF SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT LABORATORIES CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IN THE HUANCHACA REGION. THEREFORE, THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT ALREADY HAS SENT SUBSECRETARY FOR SOCIAL DEFENSE JORGE ((ALDERETE)) TO HUANCHACA WITH A GROUP OF JOURNALISTS--SOMETHING THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN PREPARING TO DO. (DRAFTED: POL/SSMITH) GREENLEE

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED